

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 180330Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL BRISBANE
TO CINCPAC HONOLULU
INFO COMSEVENTHFLT
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
SECSTATE WASHDC 1092
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS BRISBANE 0186

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJ: VISIT TO BRISBANE BY VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN AND
FAR EAST EDITION BAND

1. BRISBANE SAW THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AMERICAN PRESENCE DURING AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK (KNOWN MORE GENERALLY HERE AS CORAL SEA WEEK) IN MANY YEARS, THANKS LARGELY TO COMSEVENTHFLT. THE WEEK BEGAN WITH THE VISIT OF CHIP AND CARON CARTER AND COMSEVENTHFLT CEREMONIAL/SHOW BAND "FAR EAST EDITION" MAY 8-9. FEE WOWED SEVERAL HUNDRED ONLOOKERS AT A LUNCH HOUR PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONCERT IN BRISBANE'S CITY HALL SQUARE ON MONDAY AND OVER 200 MORE AT THE EVENING'S AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S DINNER FOR THE CHIP CARTERS.

2. COMSEVENTHFLT AND MRS. BALDWIN ARRIVED ON MAY 12 AND SPENT A BUSY 2 1/2 DAYS MEETING PEOPLE FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE BRISBANE COMMUNITY. HIGHLIGHTS WERE COMSEVENTHFLT'S TALK ON THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTH FLEET TO A PACKED LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BRISBANE CONSULAR CORPS, A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE
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AMERICAN CONSULATE WITH TWO ON-CAMERA INTERVIEWS, OFFICIAL CALLS ON THE DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND AND THE ACTING LORD MAYOR OF BRISBANE, A BALCK-TIE RECEPTION JOINTLY HOSTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AND ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION ATTENDED BY 150 GUESTS (INCLUDING THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND TWO OTHER QUEENSLAND CABINET MINISTERS), MEETINGS WITH TOP LOCAL RAN, RAAF AND AUSTRALIAN ARMY LEADERS, AND A DINNER IN HONOR

OF THE BALDWINS AT THE HOME OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL (GUESTS INCLUDED THE DEPUTY PREMIER, THE MINISTER FOR LABOR RELATIONS, A FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND THE TOP LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES IN QUEENSLAND.

3. IN HIS SPEECH INTRODUCING THE BALDWINS TO THE AAA-ESU RECEPTION, DEPUTY PREMIER W.E. KNOX SPOKE WARMLY AND ELOQUENTLY OF THE THINGS AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE IN COMMON AND OF THE SPECIAL FEELINGS THAT QUEENSLANDERS HAVE FOR AMERICANS AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE U.S. NAVY, SINCE THE BATTLE OF CORAL SEA.

4. PRESS COVERAGE WAS GOOD AND COMSEVNETHFLT APPEARED ON THE EVENING NEWS PROGRAMS OF ALL FOUR LOCAL TV CHANNELS.

5. TO SUM UP, THE VISIT OF COMSEVENTHFLT AND THE FEE BAND CAPPED A BIG WEEK FOR THE AMERICANS IN BRISBANE, OFFSETTING A LOT OF THE INITIAL DISAPPOINTMENT SOME QUEENSLANDERS FELT AT THE FACT THAT THE FLAGSHIP BY-PASSED BRISBANE. THE FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE VISIT CLEARLY SHOWED THERE IS STILL A LOT OF GOOD FEELING HERE TOWARD THE U.S. NAVY AND AMERICANS IN GENERAL, ESPECIALLY AMONG QUEENSLANDERS OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WORLD WAR II. BUT ALL SUCH RELATIONSHIPS NEED TO BE NURTURED PERIODICALLY TO KEEP THEM ALIVE. COMSEVENTHFLT'S VISIT DID JUST THAT. IT IS OUR FERVENT HOPE HERE THAT NEXT TIME HE COMES HE WILL SAIL UP THE RIVER ABOARD HIS FLAGSHIP. IN THE MEANTIME, MORE
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FREQUENT VISITS BY OTHER 7TH FLEET VESSELS WILL BE BOTH WELCOME AND FRUITFUL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PRESERVING AND FURTHERING GOOD WILL.
CUMMINGS

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